

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN, RANKING MEMBER



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 26, 2005

Contact: Robert White /Drew Crockett, (202) 225-5074 (Davis)
Karen Lightfoot, (202) 225-5051 (Waxman)

Government Reform Committee Approves Anti-Steroid ‘Clean Sports Act of 2005’

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Government Reform Committee today unanimously approved H.R. 2565, the “Clean Sports Act of 2005,” a bill to strengthen the testing procedures and toughen the penalties for the use of performance-enhancing drugs in professional American sports.

The legislation represents the product of months of Committee work — three Congressional hearings and an ongoing investigation into the use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

H.R. 2565, introduced this week, by Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA), Committee Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), Congressman Mark E. Souder (R-IN) and Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), has a total of 18 co-sponsors. An identical bill, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator John McCain (R-AZ)

Deleted: S. 1114,

“This legislation is aimed at not only getting rid of performance-enhancing drugs on the professional level, but also to measure the impact of steroids on the college and high school levels,” Davis said. “This bill, along with our outreach efforts, also sends a powerful message to the youth of America: Steroids are illegal. Steroids are dangerous, even deadly. And using steroids is cheating. We must get them out of our sports leagues, out of our schoolyards, out of our society.”

“Today’s legislation will help restore integrity to the sports we love,” said Rep. Waxman. “But most important, it will send a clear and direct message to teenagers: the use of performance-enhancing drugs in no ticket to athletic success.”

The Clean Sports Act sets minimum penalties of a two-year ban for the first violation and a lifetime ban for the second — the same as Olympic standards — and establishes minimum requirements for banned substances and for testing methods. It requires leagues to test their

athletes at least five times a year — three times during the season, and twice in the off-season. The legislation also guarantees due process rights for players who test positive. And it establishes a Commission to report on the use of performance-enhancing drugs in high school and college athletics, and to provide recommendations for reducing their use.

The Clean Sports Act applies to the four major professional sports — Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League — but it also permits the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to require additional professional sports leagues and/or NCAA Division I or II sports to comply with the legislation as well.

###